

The Board finds that, if appellant has filed a prior claim with similar allegations, then the case records must be combined for a proper adjudication of the issues. It is not clear whether there is relevant evidence as to the alleged work factors discussed in the present case that are located in the prior claim. It is also unclear as to whether all of appellant's current allegations have been adjudicated in the prior claim. As the Board noted in *R.W.*, all the records pertaining to the claim are necessary for complete consideration and adjudication of the issues presented on

appeal.¹ The case will be remanded for proper consolidation of the case records. After such further development as OWCP deems necessary, it should issue an appropriate merit decision to protect appellant's appeal rights.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT the decision of the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs dated June 8, 2012 is set aside and the case remanded for further action consistent with this decision of the Board.

Issued: February 27, 2013
Washington, DC

Richard J. Daschbach, Chief Judge
Employees' Compensation Appeals Board

Colleen Duffy Kiko, Judge
Employees' Compensation Appeals Board

Patricia Howard Fitzgerald, Judge
Employees' Compensation Appeals Board

¹ Docket No. 12-287 (issued July 26, 2012) (case was remanded for proper consolidation of case records).